



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Texas

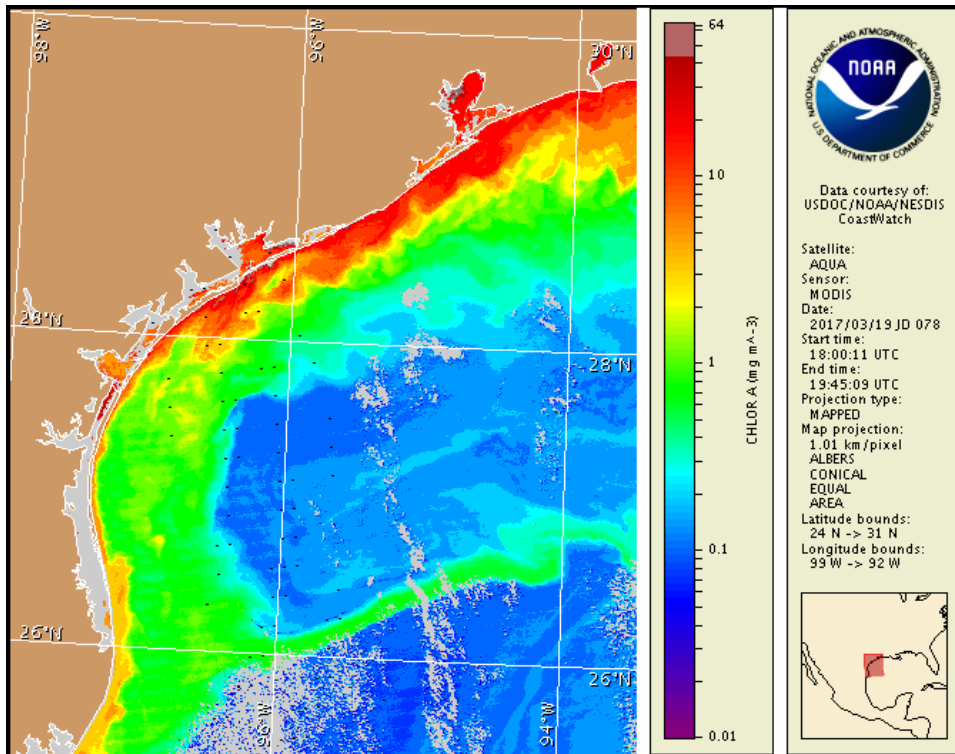
Monday, 20 March 2017

NOAA National Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Monday, March 13, 2017



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible *K. brevis* HAB areas shown by red polygon(s), when applicable. Points represent cell concentration sampling data from March 10 to 17: red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue (very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). Cell count data are provided by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. For a list of sample providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/hab_publication/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

Detailed sample information can be obtained through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at:

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/enviroconcerns/hab/redtide/status.phtml>

To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit the NOAA Harmful Algal Bloom Operational Forecast System bulletin archive:

<http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins.html>

Conditions Report

Karenia brevis (commonly known as Texas red tide) ranges from not present to very low concentrations along the coast of Texas. No respiratory irritation is expected Monday, March 20 through Monday, March 27.

Check https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/beach_conditions.html for recent, local observations.

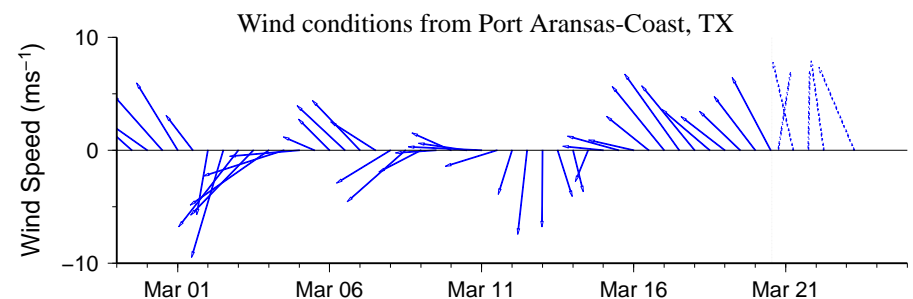
Analysis

Sampling from the Texas A&M University's Imaging FlowCytobot (IFCB), located on the Port Aransas ship channel, indicates that *Karenia brevis* concentrations range between 'not present' and 'very low a' (TAMU; 3/13-3/20). For information on area shellfish restrictions, contact the Texas Department of State Health Services.

In recent MODIS Aqua ensemble imagery (3/19; shown left), elevated to very high chlorophyll (2 to >20 $\mu\text{g/L}$) with the optical characteristics of *K. brevis* is visible from the Bolivar Peninsula region to the Matagorda Island region. However, elevated chlorophyll is not indicative of the presence of *K. brevis* and is most likely due to the resuspension of benthic chlorophyll and sediments along the coast.

Forecast models based on predicted near-surface currents indicate a potential maximum transport of 80km north from the Port Aransas region from March 19-23.

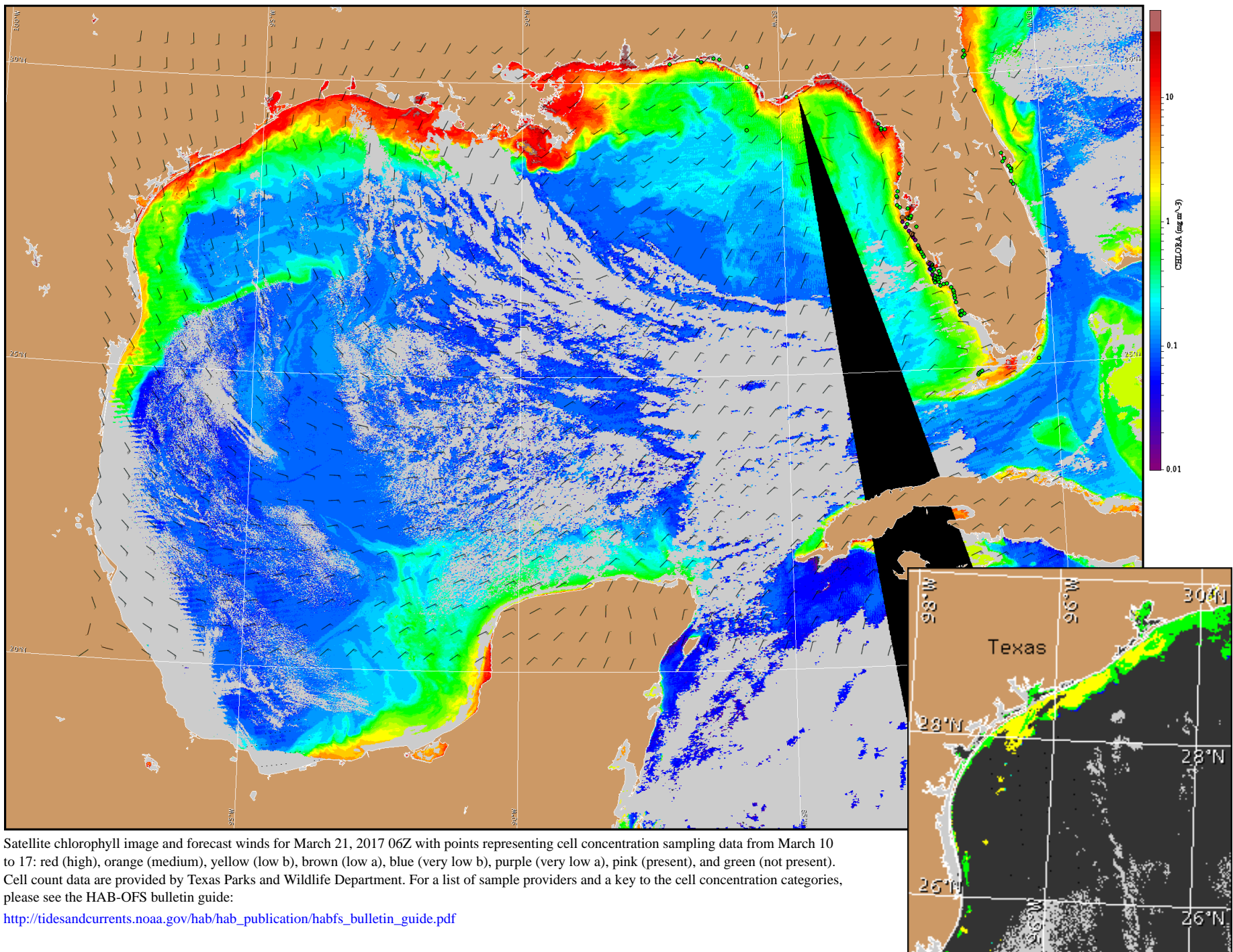
Lalime, Kavanaugh



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts. Wind observation and forecast data provided by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS).

Wind Analysis

Port Aransas to Matagorda Ship Channel: South to southeast winds (10-25kn, 5-13m/s) today through Friday night.



Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas with *K. brevis* optical characteristics shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).